

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending, with claims 1 and 15 being independent. No new matter has been added. In view of the following remarks, all of the claims should be allowed.

Interview Summary

The undersigned participated in a telephonic interview with the Examiner on July 6, 2009. During the interview, the currently pending claims were discussed as well as the cited references. While no conclusion was reached, the Examiner suggested a few modifications to increase the likelihood of the claims being allowable. Such suggestions are gratefully acknowledged.

35 USC § 112

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the term “data abstraction layer” was objected to as being unclear.

It is respectfully submitted that FIG. 2, and in particular layer 106 and the accompanying text both describes and illustrates the recited data abstraction layer. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this basis for objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-21 stand rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. US 2003/0208460 issued to Srikant et al. ("Srikant") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,003,517 issued to Seibel et al. ("Seibel"). These rejections are traversed.

Claim 1 was amended to recite: "one or more data sources providing OLTP data; one or more data acquisition modules to access, in a data access layer, the OLTP data from the one or more data sources; a business intelligence (BI) platform having a multidimensional database providing OLAP data , the BI platform being in a service layer; a mapping tool to transform the OLTP data of the data sources not being processed by an OLAP engine or the BI platform to a first data set in accordance with a common meta model of a unified view module , the BI platform being in the service layer; the unified view module being part of a data abstraction layer, the unified view module integrating the first data set of the OLTP data with the multidimensional data of the multidimensional database to produce a common meta model data set; and a user interface (UI) tool set for creating a unified UI for displaying reports that are run on the multidimensional database and common meta model data set, the unified UI to build reports from the common meta model data set; the system including at least first and second data flow integration paths originating at the data sources and passing through the data access layer, the service layer, and the data abstraction layer, the first integration path comprising the OLTP data and the mapping tool and having a first service quality, and the second integration path comprising the BI platform and having a second service quality being different from the first service quality, the first service qualities being dependent on the services used by the first integration path, the second service qualities

being dependent on the services used by the second integration path, and wherein the first and second service qualities are at least different in that the second service quality comprises at least some overhead of the BI platform that is not included in the first service quality" (for support, see, inter alia, specification par. 17).

Claim 15 was amended to recite: "An architecture for integrating online transactional processing (OLTP) systems with online analytical processing (OLAP) system, the architecture comprising: a data access layer including one or more data access programs for accessing OLTP data from an OLTP data source; a service layer including a business intelligence (BI) platform for generating OLAP data, and a mapping tool for transforming data from the OLTP data source to a first data set in accordance with a common meta-model without processing the OLTP data by an OLAP engine or the BI platform, the BI platform providing persistency and comprising an OLAP engine; a unified view module being part of a data abstraction layer that provides the common meta-model for OLTP data of the first data set integrated with OLAP data; and a user interface presentation layer to provide a user interface for displaying a report run on the integrated OLTP and OLAP data, the user interface presentation layer comprising a user interface (UI) tool set for creating a unified UI for displaying reports that are run on the multidimensional database and common meta model data set in a same report, the unified UI to build reports from the common meta model data set; the architecture including first, second, and third data flow integration paths, the first integration path comprising the OLTP data and a mapping tool and having a first service quality, and the second and third integration paths comprising the BI platform and having a second service quality being different from the first service quality, the first service qualities being dependent on the

services used by the first integration path, the second service qualities being dependent on the services used by the second integration path, and wherein the first and second service qualities are at least different in that the second service quality comprises at least some overhead of the BI platform that is not included in the first service quality, the second integration path using the OLAP engine in the BI platform, data accessed by the third integration path storing data using the persistency of the BI platform; the third integration path using the OLAP engine in the BI platform, data accessed by the third integration path not using the persistency of the BI platform to store data (for support, see, inter alia, specification pars. 50-57).

New claim 24 recites: "one or more data sources providing OLTP data; one or more data acquisition modules to access, in a data access layer, the OLTP data from the one or more data sources; an exchange infrastructure in the data access layer for process integration based on an exchange of standard messages according to predefined business process scenarios; a business intelligence (BI) platform having a multidimensional database providing OLAP data, the BI platform providing persistency, an OLAP engine, generic BI services, and business warehouse metadata, the BI platform being in a service layer; a mapping tool to transform the OLTP data of the data sources not being processed by an OLAP engine or the BI platform to a first data set in accordance with a common meta model of a unified view module, the BI platform being in the service layer; the unified view module being part of a data abstraction layer, the unified view module integrating the first data set of the OLTP data with the multidimensional data of the multidimensional database to produce a common meta model data set; and a user interface (UI) tool set for creating a unified UI for displaying reports that are run on the

multidimensional database and common meta model data set, the unified UI to build reports from the common meta model data set, the system including at least first and second data flow integration paths originating at the data sources and passing through the data access layer, the service layer, and the data abstraction layer, at least one data flow integration paths passing through the BI platform and at least one data flow integration paths bypassing the BI platform “ (for support, see, inter alia, specification pars. 14-17, FIG. 1).

The current claim amendments were made in response to the interview with the Examiner in which she suggested that further information regarding the underlying architecture be included in the claims.

Srikant, describes a system to gather business requirements, and from such gathering, generate and link reports in an OLAP system. With Srikant, requirements are received and associated with identified report processing objects used to generate report specifications defining a report. New report processing objects can be devised and associated with the requirements and also used in generating the report specifications. Furthermore, report specifications and a data store schema, describing a data store having data used to generate a report, are received. The report specifications and the data store schema are used to generate report metadata that can be linked to a specific report tool used to produce an instance of the report. Overall, Srikant contains components that are typical for an OLAP environment including the OLAP tool metadata 860 component which simply describes that generate and link metadata to a report-processing set of executable instructions.

Siebel on the other hand, provides a text mining system for collecting business intelligence about a client, as well as for identifying prospective customers of the client, for use in a lead generation system accessible by the client via the Internet. The text mining system has various components, including a data acquisition process that extracts textual data from various Internet sources, a database for storing the extracted data, a text mining server that executes query-based searches of the database, and an output repository. A web server provides client access to the repository, and to the mining server.

The recited subject matters allows for one to tightly integrate OLTP systems (operational systems) with OLAP systems (analytical systems) into one coherent BI platform with, as recited in claim 1, data flow integration paths that pass through a BI platform and data flow integration paths that bypass the BI platform. With such an arrangement, the data flow integration path bypassing the BI platform provides OLTP data while the data flow integration path that passes through the BI platform consumes more resources because of the processing using, for example, the OLAP engine in the BI platform. Such information from both of such data flow integration paths is mapped or provided according to a common metadata model so that reports from the heterogeneous data sources can be built upon such common model.

In other words, the data abstraction layer from various data sources (both operational and analytical) allows for (a) integration of real-time OLTP data with historic OLAP data into one single report or analysis, (b) common interaction paradigms and look and feel for the end user, independent of the data source, and (c) leveraging of master data, hierarchies and authorization data of the OLTP system in the BI platform without

replication, and combining it with similar assets stored in the OLAP system. Such a combination is not suggested by the cited references, whether considered singly or in combination - nor do the references individually disclose each of the claimed elements (including the particular data flow integration paths, the data abstraction layer, and the common metadata model). Moreover, in connection with claim 15, the cited references fail to suggest the recited three integration paths in which a first bypasses the BI platform, a second passes through the BI platform and uses BI platform persistence, and the third passes through the BI platform and does not use BI platform persistence.

Accordingly, the claims should be allowable.

Concluding Comments

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment. Applicant asks that all claims be allowed.

If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 34874-082.

Respectfully submitted,



Carl A. Kukkonen, III
Reg. No. 42, 773

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Customer No.: 64280
Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.
3580 Carmel Mountain Road, Suite 300
San Diego, CA 92130
Tel.: 858/314-1535
Fax: 858/314-1501